

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 15-20 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 4-14 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claim 4 is amended so that it depends from independent claim 1. Upon allowance of independent claim 1, claims 4-14 should be considered as rejoined because claim 1 now acts as a linking claim for claims 1 and 4. Additionally, claim 1 is now a generic claim for claims 2-20. Accordingly, consideration of claims 4-14 is now requested.

Double Patenting

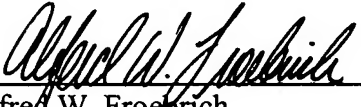
Claims 1-3 and 15-20 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,846,279. A terminal disclaimer is filed to limit the term of the present application to that of U.S. Patent No. 6,846,279. Accordingly, the nonstatutory double patenting rejection is now overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 11, 2007